

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

March 9, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Japanese documents are discussed at page 4 of the specification, and English-language abstracts for three of the Japanese documents are enclosed.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. applications:

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Attorney Docket No.</u>	<u>Applicants</u>
10/665,571	September 22, 2003	03500.017563	S. Eritate M. Kobayashi M. Kubota F. Uchida C. Shimizu K. Maeda
10/665,572	September 22, 2003	03500.017565	M. Kobayashi M. Kubota S. Eritate F. Uchida C. Shimizu K. Maeda
10/665,442	September 22, 2003	03500.017566	M. Kobayashi T. Yuasa M. Kubota S. Eritate F. Uchida C. Shimizu K. Maeda

A copy of each of these U.S. applications is enclosed.

FORMAL MATTERS

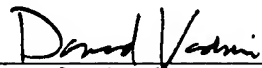
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Office Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) nor payment of a fee is believed to be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned with the next official communication indicating that such information has been considered.

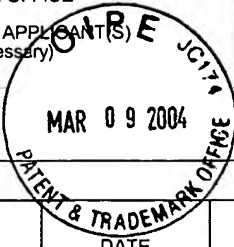
Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) Date submitted to PTO: March 9, 2004				ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.017562		APPLICATION NO. 10/665,429	
				APPLICANT MAKOTO KUBOTA, ET AL.		GROUP 1755	
				FILING DATE September 22, 2003			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6,382,775 B1	05/07/02	Kubota et al.	347	62	
		6,331,259 B1	12/18/01	Ozaki et al.	216	27	
		6,277,294 B1	08/21/01	Ozaki et al.	216	27	
		6,391,527 B2	05/21/02	Yagi et al.	430	313	
		6,436,301 B1	08/20/02	Hiroki et al.	216	27	
		6,474,780 B1	11/05/02	Kubota et al.	347	45	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		9-92897	04/04/97	Japan			Abstract
		10-139594	05/26/98	Japan			Abstract
		10-290035	10/27/98	Japan			Abstract
		60-236404	11/25/85	Japan			
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.